

REMARKS

Restriction to one of the following inventions has been required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-12 and 18 drawn to a modular furniture system and a removable upholstery cover; and

II. Claims 13-17, drawn to a bracket for modular furniture.

Applicant hereby elects the claims of II (claims 13-17). The election is made without traverse. Applicant further reserves the right to timely file a divisional application on the nonelected claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned **"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."**

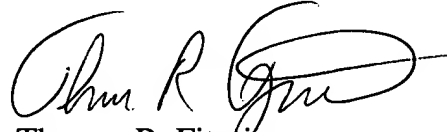
In this Preliminary Amendment, two new independent claims have been presented for consideration. The total number of independent claims now pending is 6, and the total number of claims now pending is 20. Because 4 independent claims were previously paid for, an additional fee of \$84 (\$168 for two new independent claims, discounted by half for small entity) is now due and is enclosed herewith. The Commissioner is authorized to charge additional fees due or to credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Applicant respectfully requests timely consideration of the Application. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that further clarification is necessary, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 19-20:

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19. (New) A bracket for releasably securing components to one another, said bracket comprising:

a blade portion having a mounting formation configured for attachment to one of the components, and an elongate blade formation projecting from said mounting formation; and

a sheath portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also having a mounting formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components.

20. (New) A bracket for releasably securing components of a furniture system, said bracket comprising:

a blade portion having a mounting formation configured for attachment to one of the components, and an elongate blade formation projecting from said mounting formation; and

a sheath portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also having a mounting formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components.